

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2895

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMCONSUL POZNAN

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US, CU

SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS ON THE US; GIEREK VISITS CUBA

REF: MOSCOW 271

1. ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING GIEREK'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER THE POLISH PRESS GRADUALLY EASED OFF ITS UNUSUALLY HEAVY AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE OF THE UNITED STATES AND AMERICAN ACTIVITIES WHICH ATTENDED A PERIOD OF SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE VISIT, THERE HAS BEEN NO SHARP INCREASE IN CRITICAL TREATMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. POLISH PRESS TREATMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS STILL REMARKABLY GENTLE, AKIN TO WHAT WE WERE EXPERIENCING IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1973 AND IN 1974 BEFORE THE PRE-VISIT BUILD -UP BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER.

2. IN RECENT WEEKS MORE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE GROWING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT. HOWEVER, EVEN THIS TEMPTING SUBJECT HAS BEEN TREATED WITH RELATIVE OBJECTIVITY; PROPAGANDA POINTS ARE SCORED BY A CAREFUL SELECTIVITY IN REPORTING THE NEWS RATHER THAN

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BY STRIDENT IDEOLOGICAL COMPARISONS AND DISTORTIONS.

3. THE PRESS BUILD UP FOR GIEREK'S VISIT TO CUBA, LIGHTER SO FAR THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, ALSO HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED IN ITS USE OF ANTI-AMERICAN THEMES. THE MOST AUTHORITY EDITORIAL TO APPEAR TO DATE ON THIS SUBJECT WAS IN TRYBUNA LUDU JANUARY 10 BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JOZEF BARECKI. BARECKI USES THE TERM "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" THREE TIMES IN HIS COMMENTARY AND WRITES THAT "AN ECONOMIC BLOCAD WAS ORGANIZED AGAINST CUBA, LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WERE FORCED TO BREAK OFF ALL CONTACTS WITH HER, ARMED ATTACKS WERE ORGANIZED, AND COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIONS ASSISTED.". HE DOES NOT, HOWEVER, MENTION THE BAY OF PIGS OR GUANTANAMO, NOR DOES HE MAKE ANY DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

4. THE BAY OF PIGS WAS MENTIONED HERE A WEEK AGO IN AN INTERVIEW IN TRYBUNA LUDU WITH THE DIRECTRESS OF THE MUSEUM THERE IT ALSO WAS MENTIONED IN A LENGTHY TELEVISION PROGRAM A WEEK AGO DEVOTED TO CUBA, WHICH INCLUDED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR,. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, WHILE OBSERVING THE BASIC POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS OF GIEREK'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO CUBA, THE POLISH MEDIA HAS SO FAR APPEARED TO BE AVOIDING GIVING UNDUE OFFENSE TO THE UNITED STATES.

5. CLEARLY POLAND HAS NOT FELT COMPELLED TO SUPPORT MOSCOW IN THE INCREASINGLY STRIDENT AND CRITICAL COVERAGE OF THE US WHICH EMBASSY MOSCOW HAS OBSERVED.
DAVIES

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